

BOUDDI
STATE PARK

THE PARK

Bouddi State Park embraces some 1,023 ha (2,527 acres) of magnificent coastal scenery, with wet forests and heathlands. The Park comprises the eastern fall of a small coastal range immediately north of Broken Bay, with a 283 ha (700 acre) marine extension between Gerrin Point in the south and Third Point in the north. This is the first area of ocean floor to be set aside for Park purposes in New South Wales.

The geological strata of horizontally bedded shales, sandstones and conglomerate, are of the Narrabeen Group and the Hawkesbury Sandstones (Triassic System, 200 to 180 million years old). A small coastal range capped by Hawkesbury Sandstone runs parallel to the coastline with its highest point over 152 m (500 feet) above sea level at Mount Bouddi. The land slopes away very sharply on the seaward side of this ridge and erosion of the less resistant Narrabeen Group has undercut the massive Hawkesbury Sandstone forming the spectacular semi-circular scarps best viewed in the Bouddi Grand Deep behind Maitland Bay.

The more massive of the rock types of the Narrabeen Group subject to vigorous wave action, have been eroded to form extensive wave cut platforms and high coastal cliffs.

Soil and vegetation reflect, to a great degree, the geological variation and the different aspects of landform within the State Park. Behind Maitland Bay a number of deep valleys support a coastal rainforest flora with Bangalow and Cabbage-Tree Palms and Coachwood. On the shales in many gullies, Blackbutt and Mahogany predominate, whilst the sandstone slopes are clad by fine stands of Peppermint, Bloodwood and Angophora, with an understorey of Banksia and Acacia. Elevated heathlands and moors support a great profusion of wildflowers including Epacris and the delicate Pink Wax Flower.

With such a variety of vegetation one would expect to find an equally diverse animal population but due to the limited area and adjacent settlement very few large animals remain. Most important of the mammals present are the Echidna, Bandicoot and various possums. Bird and insect species are the most prolific form of wildlife. The Lyre Bird, Bell Miner and Bower Bird are to be found, whilst many forms of migrating honeyeaters are common, feeding on the winter flowering Banksia. The White-breasted Sea Eagle is also known to nest within the Park. The rich diversity of insect life contributes greatly to the ecological cycles which are continually going on throughout all bushland.

Many insect species are responsible for the pollination of trees and other flowering plants whilst

others have the role of decomposing plant and animal tissue, releasing nutrients to the soil.

The clear sheltered waters of Maitland Bay in the Marine extension, attract many species of fish, such as Jewfish, Schnapper, Bream and Tailer and other forms of marine life particularly those species of the littoral zone.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARK

In 1898 the paddle steamer "S.S. Maitland" struck the bombora off Bouddi Head and was wrecked. Remains of her boiler are lying on the rock shelf at the northern end of Maitland Bay. The ship's bell, washed ashore by storms, has been mounted on a sandstone stand at the Maitland Store.

The original area, part of a reserve for coal set aside in the 1880's, was reserved for public recreation in 1937 as Bouddi Natural Park and came under the administration of a group of Trustees. The area was then 263 ha (650 acres) and with subsequent addition now has a total area of 1,023 ha (2,527 acres). In 1967 the area was reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1967) and renamed "Bouddi State Park". In 1971, 283 ha (700 acres) off Maitland Bay was added and this forms the Marine extension. A further 178 ha (440 acres) at Box Head have recently been added to the Park.



View from walking trail from Mt. Bouddi to Maitland Bay.

ACCESS

Bouddi State Park is situated about 19 km (12 miles) south-east of Gosford on the Scenic Road through Kincumber. From the Scenic Road there are four points of entry into the Park; Graham Drive to Little Beach car park then walk to Little Beach; Mt. Bouddi Road to Mt. Bouddi picnic area and walk to lookouts both north and south, a side road to Kilcare Beach, whilst the main access to Maitland Bay is by a walking track from the Ranger Station (Old Maitland Store), Mt. Bouddi picnic area or Kilcare Beach.

ACTIVITIES

The Park provides the opportunity for activities such as nature study, photography, swimming, picnicking, bushwalking, fishing, skin diving and scenic viewing. Many pleasant walking tracks may be followed throughout the Park to these and other points of interest and to lookouts which command magnificent views of the coastline, Brisbane Water and the surrounding country.

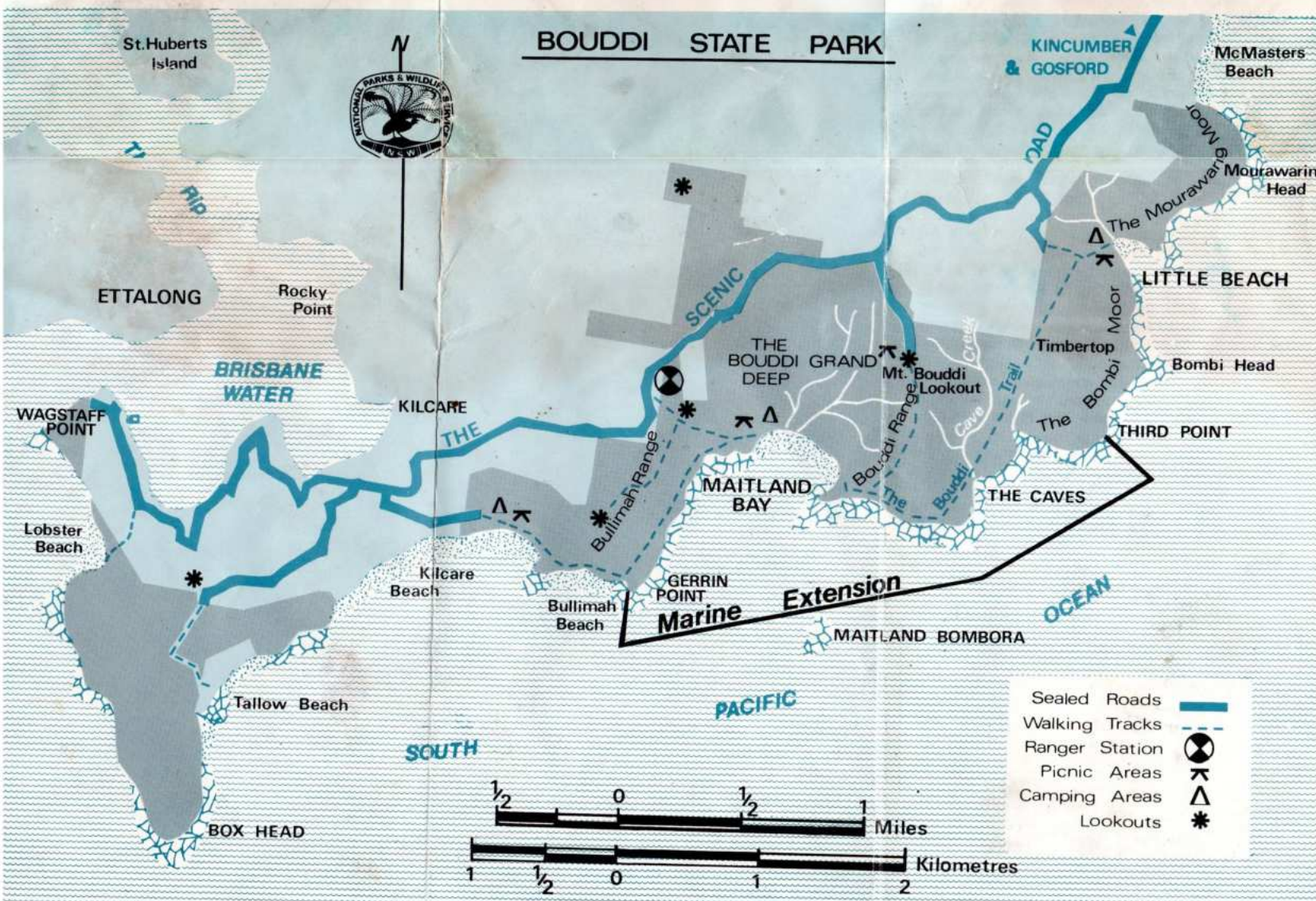
Limited lightweight camping is available at Little Beach, Kilcare Beach and Maitland Bay whilst caravan camping is available only at Kilcare Beach. Picnic facilities are located at these points, as well as at Mt. Bouddi. Prior application to the Park Superintendent is necessary for permission to camp in the Park.

In welcoming you to Bouddi State Park, the National Parks and Wildlife Service seeks your co-operation in observing the Park regulations, particularly those relating to fires. These regulations are designed to protect you as well as your Park.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

- Guard against all risks of fire
- Avoid damage to wildflower, vegetation and earth and rock formations
- Place all rubbish in containers provided
- Leave firearms and pets outside your park
- Drive carefully and observe speed limits

All enquiries should be directed to:
The Superintendent, Bouddi State Park, Scenic Drive,
Hardy's Bay, N.S.W. 2256. Phone Gosford 60 1171



Magnificent coastal scenery and the first marine park in New South Wales are within the bounds of Bouddi State Park.

Bouddi Head overlooking part of the marine extension in Maitland Bay.



THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE OF N.S.W. Administers National Parks, State Parks, Historic Sites and Nature Reserves. They have been set aside to conserve those things both natural and historical which are the heritage of all Australians. Management will ensure they remain unimpaired for the pleasure and enlightenment of future generations. Published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of N.S.W. July, 1973.